

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 3, please replace the second paragraph containing lines 5-10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a2 ~~It is to be noted that in the description made below the incident strain wave, the reflected strain wave, and the transmitted strain wave are abbreviated as a "strain wave" as necessary and that the input bar and the output bar are abbreviated as a "stress bar" as necessary.~~

On page 5, please replace the third paragraph containing line 25 through page 6 containing lines 1-25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a3 ~~That is, in the case of the specimen made of the comparatively soft viscoelastic material, the progress speed of the strain wave is higher in the input bar than in the specimen. The strain wave is reflected by its rear end. When the input bar is short, a first reflected strain wave (to be measured with the strain gauge installed on the input bar) reflected from the rear end of the input bar progresses to the front end thereof, reaches its front end at which the first reflected strain wave is reflected (second reflected strain wave). Thus, when the input bar is short, it is difficult to measure a correct strain amount of the reflected strain wave, because the second reflected strain wave is also measured with the strain gauge installed on the input bar, with the first and second reflected strain wave interfering with each other. Accordingly, it is necessary to space the strain gauge at an appropriate interval from the front end of the input bar to damp the second reflected strain wave. It is also necessary to space the strain gauge for measuring the incident strain wave and the strain gauge for measuring the first reflected strain wave at a required interval because near the rear end of the input bar, the incident strain wave and the first reflected strain wave interfere with each other. For this reason, the input bar is required to be long.~~